

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



## Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

No. 227

Washington, D. C.

Sept. 24, 1927

### CONTENTS

Page	Page
Second conference held with Budget Bureau on agricultural research appropriations ..... 709	Trend of wholesale and retail prices . 711
Trade conference of edible oil industry 710	Distribution census of Denver ..... 711
Navy asks bids on spinach, salmon and apple sauce ..... 710	Postpones effective date of new fresh fruit rates from Pacific Coast ..... 711
Promoting National Fish Week in Canada ..... 711	Complaints filed on tin can rates .... 712
Mexican bean beetle in western New York ..... 711	Revised index numbers of wholesale prices issued ..... 712
	Correction ..... 712

### Second Conference Held With Budget Bureau on Agricultural Research Appropriations

Members of the committee representing farm and industrial organizations interested in obtaining an enlarged appropriation for agricultural research had a second conference with General Herbert M. Lord, Director of the Budget Bureau, on September 19, and following the conference members of the committee expressed confidence that the undertaking would be successful, providing the Budget Bureau acts favorably on the supplemental estimates which have been re-submitted by the Department of Agriculture.

Several members said that General Lord had expressed the highest degree of sympathetic interest in the project. He was reported as saying that there is no department of the government in which he is more keenly interested than the Department of Agriculture and that he fully appreciates the fundamental importance of farm research.

General Lord intimated, members of the committee said, that the outcome depends largely on the ability of the bureau chiefs and research experts of the Department of Agriculture to justify their particular requests. The opportunity to do so, he said, will be fully accorded them in hearings to be held during the week of September 26. He further stated that these requests will be given "interested, sympathetic consideration."

Chester Gray, Washington representative of the American Farm Bureau Federation, was spokesman for the group. He said that nothing had transpired to change the conviction of the committee and the groups it represents that farm research is of vital importance at present to the welfare of agriculture and

to the American people in general, and that there should be an increase in the research funds of the Department by at least 50 per cent. He informed General Lord that, in the judgment of the committee, at least \$5,000,000, in addition to the present \$10,000,000 appropriation, will be required to bring the research program of the Department to its proper relation to the pressing needs of agriculture. He emphasized that adequate funds for research are indispensable as a part of any national agricultural relief policy.

It was stated that Secretary Jardine is fully committed to the program advocated by the committee.

#### Trade Conference of Edible Oil Industry

The Federal Trade Commission announces that it has approved plans for holding a trade practice conference of the edible oil industry with a view to bringing about elimination of alleged unfair trade practices. Seventy per cent of the representatives of this business have assured the commission of their desire to take part in such a gathering at an early date. No time for the conference has been set, but the commission has designated Commissioner J. F. Nugent to represent it at the meeting.

As stated in last week's Information Letter, methods of packing salad dressings made from olive oil and cottonseed oil will be discussed. It is said there are differences of opinion as to what constitutes the weight of a gallon of oil, and in an effort to obtain expert advice on this subject the industry has approved plans to invite to the conference specialists from the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Standards. It is asserted that a gallon of salad oil varies both in weight and volume with the degree of temperature at the time of packing and that consequently packers have had difficulty in maintaining accurate measurements. These conditions have brought on confusion and prominent members of the industry express the hope that a standard weight will be established at a trade practice conference.

Sale of cottonseed oil for pure olive oil salad dressing is another practice said to exist at times and it will be taken up at the conference.

#### Navy Asks Bids on Spinach, Salmon and Apple Sauce

The Navy Department is asking for bids, to be opened September 27, on 240,000 pounds of canned spinach (Schedule 7755), 680,000 pounds of canned salmon (Schedule 7760), and 90,000

pounds of canned apple sauce (Schedule 7756). Copies of schedules on which to submit bids may be obtained by addressing the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

#### Promoting National Fish Week in Canada

The United States Fisheries Association, at its annual convention in Boston, adopted a resolution to cooperate with Canada in promoting a National Fish Week as part of the Association's publicity campaign.

#### Mexican Bean Beetle in Western New York

Entomologists at the Experiment Station at Geneva, after an extensive inspection tour through the bean-growing districts of Western New York, report that they found the Mexican bean beetle generally established in that section of the state in sufficient numbers to threaten serious trouble in the future. The pest was first found in New York in August by the Federal entomologist with headquarters at the Geneva Station.

#### Trend of Wholesale and Retail Prices

There was an upward movement in wholesale prices from July to August, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, whose weighted index number of 404 commodities showed an increase of  $1\frac{1}{3}$  per cent. Compared with August last year, however, there was a decrease of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  per cent.

The retail food index issued by the Bureau shows a decrease of a little more than one-half of 1 per cent from July 15 to August 15, and a decrease of about 2 per cent since August, 1926.

#### Distribution Census of Denver

In Denver the largest annual sales as shown by the recent census of distribution were made by the livestock establishments. Next to these the largest sales are shown for the wholesale and retail grocery and delicatessen establishments. In all 4,604 establishments were reported by the Census and 817 of these were wholesale and retail food establishments whose sales amounted to \$51,517,000. Next to the grocery and delicatessen establishments, the largest sales were those of automobile concerns, which totaled \$42,751,200.

#### Postpones Effective Date of New Fresh Fruit Rates from Pacific Coast

On petition of the railroads the Interstate Commerce Commission has postponed from October 10 to November 10 the ef-

fective date of its recent decision ordering a reduction in freight rates on deciduous fruits from California. In the same petition the carriers asked for a reconsideration of the Commission's findings and stated that unless such reconsideration is granted the railroad will make a court test of the constitutionality of the Hoch-Smith resolution as interpreted by the Commission.

The Commission in an earlier decision held the present rates reasonable, but following the passage of the Hoch-Smith resolution and after a rehearing of the case issued its decision in which it was found that the California deciduous fruit industry was in a depressed condition and prescribed the reduced rates.

#### Complaints Filed on Tin Can Rates

Two complaints have been filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission involving rates on empty cans. One attacks the rates on empty cans in bulk, carloads, from Baltimore to Biglerville, Pa.; the other asks the establishment of reasonable rates from New Orleans to Bayou La Batre, Ala.

#### Revised Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices Issued

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor has completed the revision of its index numbers of wholesale prices and the results are now ready for distribution as Bulletin No. 453. The price base has been changed from the average of the year 1913 to the average of the year 1926. Also, the "weighting" employed is no longer the quantity entering into the market in 1919, but an average for the years 1923 to 1925. The number of articles included has been increased from 404 to 550, some of these being composites made by averaging the prices of several kinds of an article. A slight rearrangement of commodities has been made in several of the groups, while the former group of "clothing materials" has been superseded by the two groups—"textile products" and "hides and leather products."

#### Correction

In last week's Information Letter a typographical error occurred in the item regarding Dr. Eddy's article in the Pictorial Review, the word "bleach" being substituted for "blanch" in the statement regarding the loss of soluble salts and nutrients in cooking water.